

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: LIGHT VERDICTS FOR KOREAN WRITERS

REF A SEOUL 893 B. SEOUL 78

1. ON JUNE 28 SEOUL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT PRONOUNCED SENTENCES ON FOUR OF FIVE KOREAN WRITERS AND UNIVERSITY LECTURERS UNDER ARREST SINCE END OF JANUARY FOR HAVING HAD CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREANS IN JAPAN, VIOLATING THE ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW, AND WRITING SEVERAL ARTICLES AT INSTIGATION OF NORTH KOREAN AGENTS CRITICAL OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN ROK. ARTICLES APPEARED IN "HANYAN," AN INDEPENDENT JAPANESE LANGUAGE REVIEW ON KOREAN AFFAIRS. ONE DEFENDANT, PROF. CHONG IL-PYONG OF KYONGHEE UNIVERSITY WAS ACQUITTED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE.

2. THE NOTABLY MODERATE SENTENCES OF THE FOUR CONVICTED DEFENDANTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: (1) KEY DEFENDANT AND WELL-KNOWN AUTHOR LEE HO-CHOL - 18 MONTHS PLUS TWO YEARS SUSPENDED CIVIL RIGHTS; (2) CHANG PYONG-HI, LECTURER AT KUKMIN COLLEGE -- ONE YEAR AND ONE YEAR SUSPENDED CIVIL RIGHTS, (3) KIM U-JONG, PROFESSOR,
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KOREAN LITERATURE AT KYONGHEE UNIVERSITY -- TWO YEARS

SUSPENDED SENTENCE, (4) IM HON-YON INSTRUCTOR AT
CHUNGANG UNIVERSITY -- TMGEE YEARS SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

3. COMMENT: LENIENCE OF SENTENCES DUE TO FACT THAT
INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SILENCED, ACTUAL CHARGES
AGAINST DEFENDANTS WERE THIN, AND ROKG DID NOT WISH TO
ENGAGE IN OVERKILL.
HABIB

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